

Given the complexity of this bill and the interest Members have, if we utilize the time rather than sitting in quorum calls hour after hour—we will hear that bellowing that occurs: I never had a chance to be heard on my amendment. Why didn't I have time to be heard? The answer is going to be—I am keeping the record here—how much time I have been sitting around waiting for someone to come debate an amendment.

If I sound a little frustrated—it is a little too early in the debate to get frustrated, but I wanted to express it in advance of the real frustration that will come later on.

There will be no more votes this evening.

I see my colleague from Colorado is here. I am going to do the wrap-up and then allow my colleague to be heard.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN DAVID OBEY

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I was saddened by the announcement of my friend, Congressman DAVID OBEY of Wisconsin, that he will retire from the U.S. House of Representatives. He has served with great distinction for the people of his district in Wisconsin since April 1, 1969.

He was elected to succeed Melvin Laird, who had resigned from the House to serve as Secretary of Defense. DAVID OBEY was reelected to 17 succeeding Congresses. In the House, he has chaired the Joint Economic Committee and the Committee on Appropriations. DAVID OBEY has had a career of distinction in the Congress. He has been conscientious in the discharge of his duties and responsibilities as a Congressman and he has been a good friend of mine.

I will truly miss working with DAVID OBEY on the Appropriations Committee. We dealt with some of the most contentious issues of our time. I always respected him even though we sometimes had to disagree on issues that were being considered by our committee.

He was a spirited and effective Member of Congress. I extend to him my very good wishes for the future.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I want to join my great friend from Mississippi, Senator COCHRAN, in his sentiments about DAVID OBEY.

I have known DAVID OBEY for 36 years. He had already been in Congress about 4 or 5 years when I got to meet DAVE, when I arrived in 1975. He is a wonder-

ful individual, with deep passions. He was the best ally you ever had if he was on your side, and he was a frightening opponent if he was on the other side. Having been on both sides of an argument with DAVE OBEY, believe me, I much prefer having him an ally on issues.

He is a notorious workhorse who showed up every day with his sleeves rolled up to fight for not only the little guy in his own district in Wisconsin but for people all across the country. Working men and women never had a better ally in the Congress of the United States than they did in DAVE OBEY.

He did not spare any of his emotion or rhetoric when it came to the defense of that working man and woman in our country during his more than 40 years of service. He has great passion. Nothing he disliked more than a bully, and nothing ignited his temper more than any injustice.

He loved his State, his family, and enjoyed a great joke when we would spend time with him in various committees and the marking up of bills. He and I worked together. We were involved, when in my earliest days in the House I was a strong backer of Richard Bolling from Missouri to be majority leader back in 1976 I think it was.

Gillis Long of Louisiana and I were the comanagers of Richard Bolling's campaign to become majority leader when Tip O'Neill was going to become Speaker and there was a contest over the majority leader's race.

The other great ally in that effort was DAVE OBEY of Wisconsin. That is when I first got to know DAVE, in that battle for the majority leader. We lost that battle. Dick Bolling did not make it. Jim Wright became the majority leader in a very close contest, in fact, with Phil Burton of California. It was a 1-vote margin that determined the majority leader's race.

Richard Bolling dropped out after the second ballot, did not get enough votes. But DAVE OBEY and I and Gillis Long and a group of others organized to support Richard Bolling. That is when I got to know DAVE. I was with him about a couple of weeks ago. ROSA DELAURO, the Congresswoman from the New Haven district in Connecticut, my former campaign manager, chief of staff for 7 years, was only the second woman to be the Chief of Staff of a Senator of the United States. She served with me for 7 years and went on to become a Member of Congress for the last 20 years herself.

ROSA sits on the Appropriations Committee and chairs the Agriculture Subcommittee. DAVE OBEY was at that event for Congresswoman DELAURO and gave some wonderful remarks on behalf of her that evening.

I join THAD COCHRAN in wishing DAVE the very best. He served his State, his district, and his country with distinction and great patriotism. We wish him the very best.

#### JUSTICE FOR NEVADA'S COLD WAR VETERANS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge an important achievement for Nevada's Cold War veterans and their families. These individuals served their country at the Nevada Test Site, where over one thousand nuclear weapons detonations took place over four decades of nuclear testing. The work at the Nevada Test Site, NTS, helped America win the Cold War, but it also left thousands of workers with debilitating cancers. Beginning today, many of these workers will now be eligible for automatic compensation, putting an end to years of bureaucratic nightmares and redtape.

On February 19, 1952, the Nevada Test Site was created to serve as the Nation's nuclear test site. 174 atmospheric and underground tests were performed there before the Limited Test Ban Treaty of 1963 banned all atmospheric, space, and sub-sea nuclear weapons testing. Another 754 tests were completed before the United States established a moratorium on nuclear weapons testing in 1992. The vast majority of testing in this period took place underground, in a network of tunnels and shafts, although some non-weapons nuclear testing continued to take place above ground. Even though these tunnels were designed to contain the radiation produced by the tests, most of the underground detonations did release radiation that reached NTS workers.

In 2000, after a number of my colleagues and I had begun to hear disturbing stories from our constituents about illnesses they had gotten from their nuclear weapons work and their inability to get any financial compensation from the government, we introduced and passed the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Act. This legislation was designed to allow thousands of America's Cold War veterans who had worked for the Department of Energy to receive compensation that would not only help pay their medical bills but would also honor the sacrifices they and their families had made for their country.

Unfortunately, it soon became clear that even with this new law, it would not be easy for many workers to get the compensation they deserved. In 2005, I began to hear from workers and survivors complaining that they were being put through a seemingly endless stream of bureaucratic redtape only to be denied in the end. I heard stories about workers who were encouraged to remove their radiation detection devices so that they could continue to work even after reaching the maximum allowable radiation levels, yet their records showed zero radiation exposures year after year. I was enraged that these workers were denied compensation simply because their employer failed to keep an accurate account of how much radiation each worker was exposed to, so I embarked upon a three-pronged strategy to add